26. (Twice Amended) A composition comprising a first member of a binding pair directly or indirectly attached to fluorescein and a second member of the binding pair directly or indirectly attached to cyanine 5, wherein the first and second members of the binding pair are associated so that the fluorescein and cyanine 5 are in fluorescence resonance energy transfer proximity to each other, wherein said indirect attachment is effected through a linking moiety selected from the group consisting of an antibody, antibody fragment, biotin and streptavidin, with the proviso that at least one member of the binding pair must be indirectly attached to fluorescein or cyanine 5.

27. (Amended) The composition of claim 26, wherein the first member of the binding pair is directly attached to fluorescein, and the direct attachment is effected through a covalent bond.

- 28. (Amended) The composition of claim 26, wherein the first member of the binding pair is indirectly attached to fluorescein and the second member of the binding pair is indirectly attached to cyanine 5.
- 45. (New) The composition of claim 26, wherein the binding pair is complementary oligonucleotides.
- 46. (New) The composition of claim 26, wherein the binding pairs are selected from the group consisting of antigen-antibody, hormone-hormone binding protein, receptor-ligand, lectin-carbohydrate, enzyme-enzyme cofactor, enzyme-enzyme inhibitor, enzyme-substrate and fragments or analogs thereof.
  - 47. (New) The composition of claim 26, wherein the second member of the binding pair directly attached to cyanine 5, and the direct attachment is effected through a covalent bond.